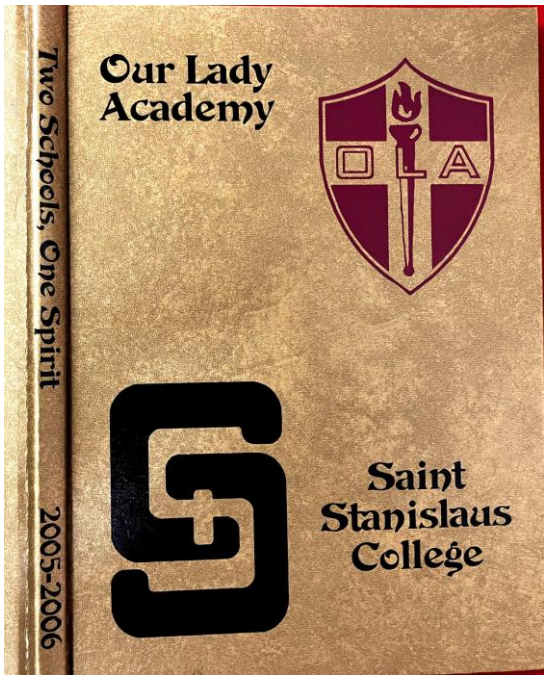
Retro #27: **Two Schools-One Spirit, 2005-2006**

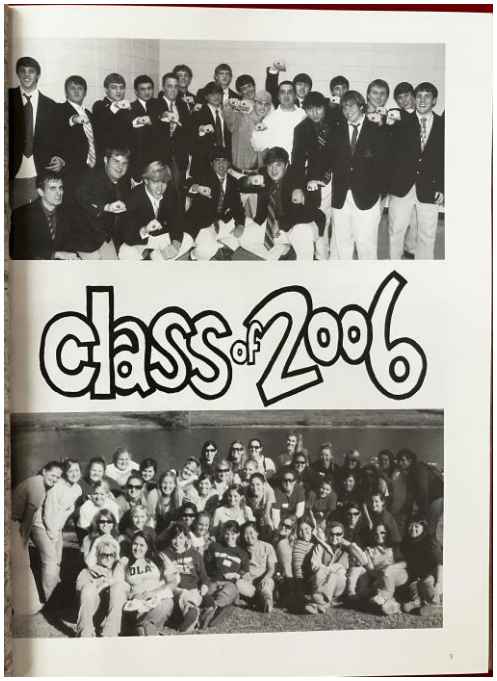
Students and faculty from Our Lady Academy shared facilities with St. Stanislaus College on the SSC campus from November 2005 to May 2006 while their buildings damaged by Katrina were being restored. Sister Jackie Howard, principal of OLA, wrote in her end-of-the year-newsletter, *"When our 45 graduates walked down the center aisle of OLG Church last Saturday afternoon, I knew it was our FINEST HOUR. We survived. We are building. We will thrive again. We will return to our campus in August for the start of the 2006-2007 academic year. We are SO grateful to SSC for opening their doors and their hearts to us, but it is time to go home. The Brothers Ronald have been WONDERFUL!"*

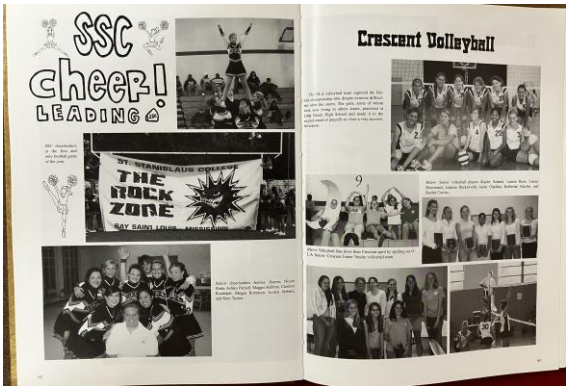
In a letter to Brother Ronald Talbot, president of SSC, and Brother Ronald Hingle, principal of SSC, Sister Jackie wrote, *"Because of you, our worst nightmare has become our finest hour."*

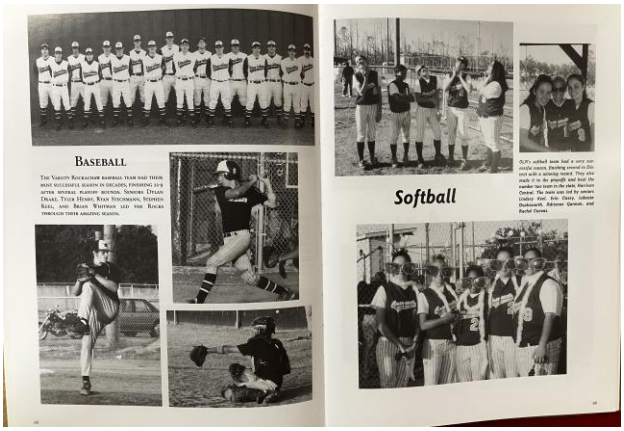
Twenty years later, Brother Ronald Hingle still treasures a famed embroidery of the theme for 2005-06 "Two Schools, One Spirit" presented to him by a parent from OLA. He recalls, *"The opportunity to share the pieces of our campus that were still serviceable after Katrina with the faculty and staff of Our Lady Academy was probably one of the finest moments of our 150 – year history. To have two of the largest Catholic schools in the Diocese with similar missions under the same roof was truly a gift of the Spirit. The time we spent together, sharing classes and sharing life after a tragic event, was tremendously uplifting and supportive for all of us. It is certainly something none of us will ever forget. We were abundantly blessed and enriched by sharing the blessing of our campus and so much more with the young ladies of OLA."*

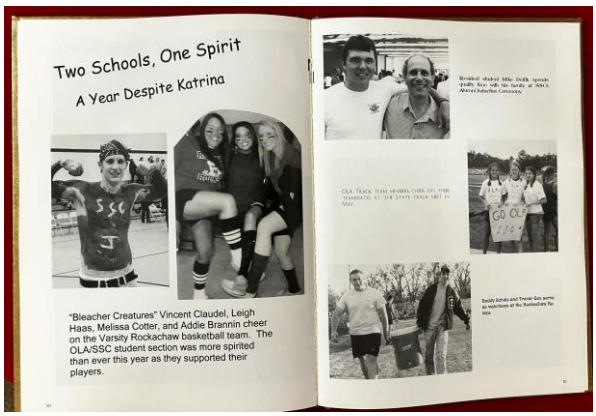
Students from both schools worked together to put out an amazing yearbook for the 2005-2006 school year. In photos and quotes, they captured well the spirit that carried them through that unforgettable period following one of the most devastating storms in the history of Bay St. Louis. They appropriately named the book *"Two Schools, One Spirit."*

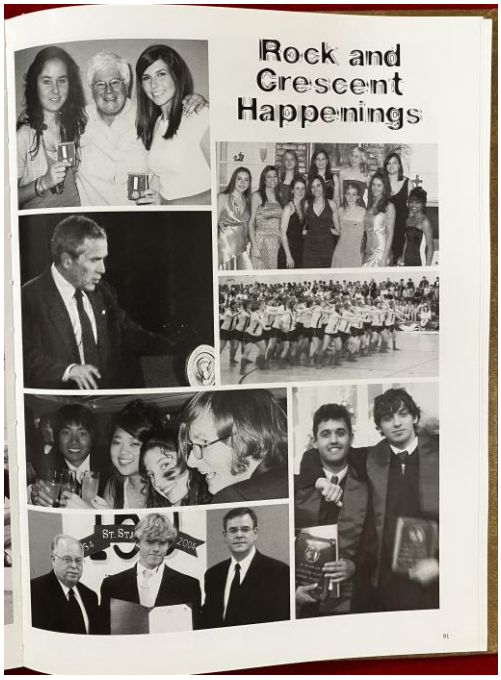


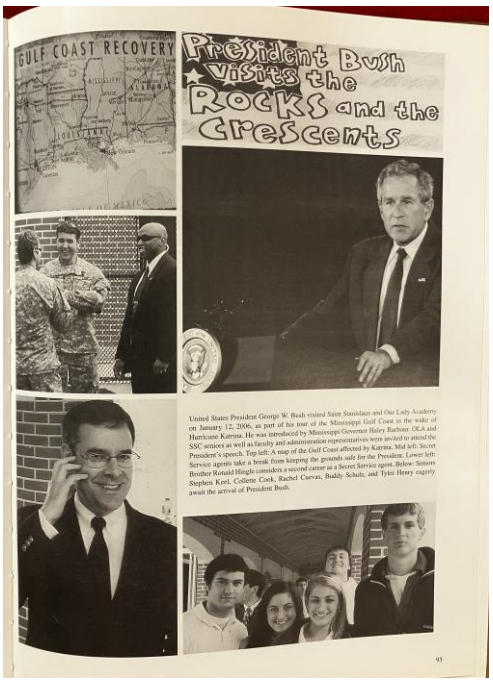







Two Schools, One Spirit
A Year Despite Katrina
"Bleacher Creatures" Vincent Claudel, Leigh Haas, Melissa Cotter, and Addie Brannin cheer on the Varsity Rockachaw basketball team. The OLA/SSC student section was more spirited than ever this year as they supported their players.




GULF COAST RECOVERY
President Bush Visits the Rocks and the Crescents
United States President George W. Bush visited Saint Stanislaus and Our Lady Academy on January 12, 2006, as part of his tour of the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. He was introduced by Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour. OLA and SSC seniors as well as faculty and administration representatives were invited to attend the President's speech. Top left: A map of the Gulf Coast affected by Katrina. Mid left: Secret Service agents take a break from keeping the grounds safe for the President. Lower left: Brother Ronald Hingle considers a second career as a Secret Service agent. Below: Seniors Stephen Keel, Collette Cook, Rachel Cuevas, Buddy Schulz, and Tyler Henry eagerly await the arrival of President Bush.

Big Sister, Little Sister Ceremony

Above: Big Sisters Chelsea Bradford and Katie Balentine with Little Sisters Jennifer Roy an Ashleigh Mullins. Below: Seniors Megan Mauroner and Alyse Prieur with freshman Morgan Hansell.

Big Sister, Little Sister has been an Our Lady Academy tradition for decades. It is an opportunity for seniors to share their wisdom about high school and about life with their adopted younger sisters, the freshmen.

Best of luck in high school, Class of 2009. We love you! -Your Big Sisters

Above: A Big Sister/ Little Sister luncheon was held before the ceremony. Below: Big Sister Addie Brannin with Little Sister Devon Weston.

Above: Kaylee Schmitt adopts her little sister Cady Reinhart and Senior Reed Bourgeouis and freshman Elizabeth Bourgeouis pose with their mother after the ceremony.

Big Brother, Little Brother Ceremony

Above: Senior Chris Rogers lights a candle at the Big Brother, Little Brother Ceremony. Top right: Senior Kevin Davielh adopts his little brother. Right: The Class of 2006 address their little brothers with a Scripture reading at the ceremony.

The graduating class of St. Stanislaus traditionally adopts sixth and seventh graders as their little brothers. The seniors help the younger students adjust to St. Stanislaus and guide them through their change from elementary school to junior high school. Big brothers encourage their little brothers to take advantage of all the opportunities available to them at SSC and serve as examples of men of character. Left: Senior Brandon Butler adopts his little brother, Royce Rollins.